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DD/S-55-263

Approved For Release 2002/08/21 : CIA-RDP80B01676R004100060032-8

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

400 94 1000 01

28 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Zeckendorf, et al., to discuss the possibility of locating the proposed new CIA headquarters building in southwest Washington, D. C.

1. At the request of Mr. William Zeckendorf, Mr. [redacted] 25X1  
Director of Logistics, CIA, Mr. [redacted] Chief, Real Estate and Construction Division, Office of Logistics, CIA, and I lunched at the Capitol Hill Club with him and others on 27 April 1955. Some of those present included Mr. Zeckendorf, Jr., Mr. Tompkins, Mr. Pei, all of Webb & Knapp, Inc., Colonel Hansen of the Engineer Commissioner's Office, District of Columbia, General Donovan, Legal Advisor to Mr. Zeckendorf, Mr. Reynolds, former Commissioner of Public Buildings, Judge McGranary, and Mr. Searles, Executive Director of the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency. 25X1

2. The purpose of this meeting was:

- to attempt to persuade CIA to select southwest Washington, D. C., as its site location, and
- to attempt to persuade CIA to agree to enter into the Southwest Redevelopment Project and construct its building on a lease-purchase, rather than a direct appropriation basis.

3. Significant points of the discussion:

- Mr. Reynolds said that he wrote the lease-purchase language and could assure everyone present that this legislation definitely was intended to cover construction such as a new CIA headquarters building. I told Mr. Reynolds that of course I did not have any personal knowledge of what the intent of Congress was when this legislation was enacted but that it had rather been our understanding that the intent of Congress was to take care of post offices etc., and not buildings such as ours. I also invited his attention to the Report of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, with regard to the new AEC building, which took the same position.

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- b. Mr. Searles was most outspoken in his feelings that the CIA should go to the southwest section on a lease-purchase basis and indicated that either he or the Zeckendorf people could, with little or no trouble, persuade the Bureau of the Budget to reverse the position taken in this matter.
- c. Following some remarks by Mr. Searles to this effect, Mr. Zeckendorf suggested that a White House conference be arranged to settle the entire matter and that he was sure that the President would not be difficult to deal with, etc. To this I replied that CIA had recommended a direct appropriation as opposed to a lease-purchase arrangement and that at this point I would object to any such conference or other attempts to alter our present course of action.

4. After considerable discussion, Mr. Zeckendorf summarized his feelings as follows:

- a. He stated that he wanted to get the southwest redevelopment problem settled in the National interest. While being perfectly frank that he also had a selfish interest, he emphasized his sincerity that this was secondary. He wanted it clearly understood that he and his organization would like to have CIA locate in the southwest area and in a lease-purchase building to be erected by Webb & Knapp, Inc; however, if, in the final analysis, CIA desired to locate in the southwest on a direct appropriation basis he would welcome us. He hoped, of course, that Webb & Knapp, Inc. might get the construction job in view of their over-all interest in the southwest redevelopment problem and in order to insure that our building was compatible with other structures in that area.

5. I responded by expressing my appreciation to Mr. Zeckendorf and summarizing my position as follows:

I stated that:

- a. We were required by law to consult with the National Capital Planning Commission in the selection of a CIA site.

- b. We were following what I considered to be an orderly and proper procedure to select such a site and that until this procedure had developed a recommendation on the several possible sites we were not in a position to say that we favored locating in the southwest or any other particular location.
- c. We had recommended the use of a direct appropriation as opposed to a lease-purchase arrangement and legislation had already been introduced into Congress accordingly. I stated emphatically that at this time we did not wish to alter this course of action.
- d. With regard to possible reconsideration of the lease-purchase approach, I told Mr. Zeckendorf that if the southwest site should eventually be selected I would then be willing to discuss the possibility of lend lease with him but that this remark should not be interpreted as an implication that we might either desire or be willing to change to this method of construction.

6. Finally, in view of the remarks which had been made in the course of our discussion concerning a possible White House conference and other actions to change our approach to a lease-purchase arrangement, I requested that no one outside of the Central Intelligence Agency confer with the Bureau of the Budget, members of Congress, or anyone else to interfere with the CIA legislation and appropriation. Mr. Zeckendorf accepted my position completely and stated quite emphatically to all of those present that it was his desire that my wishes be respected one hundred per cent.

25X1

L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

In view of the points discussed and the persons in attendance at my luncheon with Mr. Zeckendorf to talk about the possible location of our new building in the southwest area, I would like for you to be acquainted with the facts as related in the attached Memorandum for the Record.

[Redacted]  
L. K. White

28 Apr 55  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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